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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MCGILL
UNIVERSITY** [CA/CA]; 845 Sherbrooke Street West,
Montréal, Québec H3A 2T5 (CA).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **ROSENBERG,**
Lawrence [CA/CA]; 6507, Fern Road, Côte St-Luc,
Québec H4V 1E4 (CA).

(74) Agent: **OGILVY RENAULT**; Suite 1600, 1981 McGill
College Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2Y3 (CA).

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(54) Title: *IN VITRO* PLATFORM FOR SCREENING AGENTS INDUCING ISLET CELL NEOGENESIS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an *in vitro* method for screening agents inducing islet cell neogenesis or duct-to-islet cell transdifferentiation, which comprises the steps of: a) expanding *in vitro* cells of a duct-like structure obtained by inducing cystic formation in cells in or associated with post-natal islets of Langerhans; b) treating said expanded cells of said duct-like structure with an agent screened; and c) determining potency of said agent of inducing islet cell differentiation of said duct-like structure in becoming insulin-producing cells.

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